775 jealous persons or criminals, were thought to become revengeful demons (kodukäija), the term being a translation of the German Heimgänger. [153] These demons were said to be the cause of sickness and other trouble. Nightmares and plagues were believed to be caused by spirits [177] or by the dead, and death appeared under Chris- [76] tian-German influence personified as a man with a scythe, or who was called Liiva Annus 'Sand Annus.'

754 538 According to the prominent Estonian folklorist, Dr. Oskar Loorits, the least original mythological figure in Estonia is the sorcerer or magician (Estonian nõid, Finnish noita), who can be either man or woman. The ancient nõid was a wise man (tark), a kind of priest and mediator between the spirits, the dead, and the living. He gave good advice to those in trouble and healed